

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Little Corellas feeding on *Pinus pinaster*- On 23 December 1998 at approximately 1730 hours I observed a flock of Little Corellas feeding on the cones of *Pinus pinaster* in the parking area adjacent to Beatty Park Leisure Centre, Vincent Street, North Perth. A few birds were again seen feeding on 17 March 1999. This appears to be a new food source for Little Corellas.

The method of feeding was observed. Usually a bird bites off a cone and transfers it to the left foot. The cones are rotated and stripped from the base

to extract the pine seeds. If the cone is dropped the bird selects another one.

Freshly fallen cones were collected from the ground for examination and to be photographed (Figure 1). Voucher material has been lodged with the Western Australian Museum.

This population of Little Corellas originated from escapees from aviaries from unknown sources (R. E. Johnstone and G. M. Storr, 1998, "Handbook of Western Australian Birds. Volume 1 - Non-passerines (Emu to Dollarbird).

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Figure 1 Cones and foliage of *Pinus pinaster* harvested by Little Corellas